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Loan from Italy

*9. SHRI ASHOK ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been signed with the Italian Government for the grant of a loan of rupees ten crore;

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement; and

(c) the particular industry in which this loan is proposed to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No, Sir, However, a Memorandum of Understanding for grant assistance of Italian Lira six thousand two hundred eighty three million equivalent to rupees ten crores approximately at the then prevailing exchange rate was signed between the Government of India and the Government of Italy on 24th April, 1991.

(b) The main features of the agreement are:—

(i) Cooperation between the Central Power Research Institute of India (CPRI) and Centre Electrotecnico Sperimentale Intaliano of Italy (CESI) for the realisation of R & D plan on the EHV/UHV AC/DC Power Systems in India.

(ii) This is the second phase of an on going collaboration programme between these two organisations.

(iii) The agreement envisages:

(a) visits of experts from Italy to India,

(b) use of CESI laboratories and other facilities and also CESI experts services in Italy,

(c) training of Indian engineers in Italy,

(d) transfer of equipment developed under the agreement.

(c) The grant assistance is to be utilised in the Power Sector.

Import of Rubber

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*10. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to import rubber during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the import of rubber will have any adverse effect on the rubber cultivators; and

(d) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Import of natural rubber for each year is decided on the basis of the expected demand-supply gap for that year and also keeping in view the stocks available. The projections of the demand-supply gap and the stocks of natural rubber available in the country are being reviewed from time to time. Suitable decisions will be taken at the appropriate time. Since the imports of rubber are made to meet the demand-supply gap, such imports, if any, are not expected to have adverse effect on rubber cultivators.

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Violence during recent elections

*11. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale violence has taken place during the recent mid-term elections to the Lok Sabha in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents reported, State-wise; and